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WHAT **SINISTER**
SECRETS HIDE BELOW?



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REMY LeBEAU HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE OUTSIDER. ORPHANED AT BIRTH, HE WAS ADOPTED BY THE LEGENDARY THIEVES GUILD OF NEW ORLEANS, OFTEN SHUNNED BY HIS PEERS BECAUSE OF HIS STRANGE BURNING RED EYES. EVENTUALLY, HE REALIZED HE IS A MUTANT — GIFTED AT BIRTH WITH THE ABILITY TO CHARGE INANIMATE OBJECTS WITH BIOKINETIC ENERGY THAT IS EXPLOSIVELY RELEASED! HE'S CHARMING. HE'S DEADLY. STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE MOST MYSTERIOUS X-MAN OF ALL!

GAMBIT

The SUNSET DAWN Book 2: The Black Womb

1891

MAYBE IT'S HIS IMAGINATION,
BUT THE AIR SMELLS CLEANER.
THE SALT WATER TASTES FRESHER.

OR MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT
WHEN REMY LeBEAU TRAVELS,
IT'S NEVER DONE AT SUCH
A LEISURELY, MEASURED
PACE.

HE IS A MAN OUT OF
TIME, BUT HE COULD
LEARN TO LIKE IT HERE...

...IF HE WEREN'T IN THE
MIDDLE OF DETERMINING
THE ULTIMATE FATE OF
HIS FAMILY AND THE
POSSIBLE COURSE OF
HUMAN CIVILIZATION,
THAT IS!

OKAY,
LEONARDO,
YOU'RE "KING OF
THE WORLD," SO,
YOU MIND PUTTING
AWAY THE PRETTY-
BOY POSE --


SHAMROCK

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-- AND
START DOING
SOME ACTUAL
WORK?!

JACOB GAVIN, JR. IS A FELLOW
TIME-TRAVELER, BROUGHT ALONG
BY REMY AGAINST BOTH THEIR
BETTER JUDGMENTS.

JAKE IS ALSO A MUTANT
METAMORPH KNOWN AS
THE COURIER.

ALTHOUGH RIGHT NOW, HIS
PURPOSE IS BEST SERVED
FROM YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
SAILING HIS FATHER'S YACHT...

THAT
WHAT YOU
HAD IN MIND,
JAKE?

WELL,
SURE, SINCE I
COULDN'T REACH
THAT KNOT
THERE...

Mm-
hmm.

STILL
AMAZED
ADAM WORTH
LET YOU USE HIS
YACHT TO GO FROM
LONDON TO NEW
YORK.

HEARD THE
EXPRESSION, "THICK
AS THIEVES"? OUR TYPES
TEND TO STICK TOGETHER.
HONOR, LOYALTY, ALL
THAT STUFF.

YOU
BLACKMAILED
HIM, DIDN'T
YOU?

YAH, TOL'
HIM I'D BLAB ABOUT
WHERE HE WAS KEEPIN'
A FAMOUS PAINTIN'
HE STOLE A FEW
YEARS BACK.



YOUR FATHER SEEMS PRETTY COOL WITH THE IDEA THAT WE'RE RACING AGAINST HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

ADOPTIVE FATHER -- AN' DON' CALL HIM THAT WHEN HE'S TWELVE YEARS OLD.

RIGHT NOW, HE'S JUST JEAN LUC LIBEAU, FUTURE PATRIARCH OF THE NEW ORLEANS' THIEVES GUILD.

IT ISN'T THAT SIMPLE, REMY -- I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT I'D SAY TO MY DAD IF I SAW HIM AS A KID.

PROB'LY JUS' TELL 'IM TO BUY SHARES OF AT&T.

HE DID THAT WHEN HE WAS TEN.

WHAT CAN I SAY TO HIM, JAKEP IT'S A KINDA WEIRD SITUATION WE'RE IN HERE.

WEIRD BY THE STANDARDS OF THE X-MEN IS SAYING A LOT!

THEY'D SNUCK INTO DR. DOOM'S CASTLE AND USED HIS TIME MACHINE TO TRAVEL TO 1891 --

-- BECAUSE JEAN LUC TOLD REMY HE HAD TO COME BACK TO THE PAST AND SAVE BOTH HIS LIFE AND THE GUILD --

-- BECAUSE TECHNICALLY, HE'D ALREADY DONE IT! NOW WOULD BE WHEN THE TEMPORAL SLURPEE HEADACHE KICKS IN!

THEY HOOKED UP WITH THE GREATEST THIEF IN THE 19TH CENTURY, ADAM WORTH --

-- WHO HELPED THEM FIND AND RESCUE YOUNG JEAN LUC AND FORMER GUILD MEMBER, BELIZE MARCEAUX --

-- FROM AN IMMORTAL GUILD BENEFACTRESS AND ALBATROSS NAMED CANDRA.

CANDRA WAS ANGRY WITH THE GUILD FOR HAVING FAILED TO STEAL A JEWEL NAMED THE MOMENTARY PRINCESS THAT WOULD GIVE HER A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE.

THAT HEADACHE KICK IN YET? IT HAS FOR REMY.

SO HE MADE A DEAL WITH CANDRA. ABSOLVE THE GUILD OF THEIR DEBT, AND REMY WOULD GIVE HER WHAT SHE WANTED...

... A TASTE OF TOMORROW. HE TOLD THEM WHERE THEY COULD SAMPLE THAT TASTE...

BLACK WOMB KILLER ACQUITTED!



Due to the testimony of Dr. Nathan Milbury, Amanda Mueller was acquitted of the charges pressed against her. Due to a harrowing two days spent on the witness stand...

... IN NEW YORK CITY, WITH A CHEF NAMED ESSEX, WHO WOULD ONE DAY BECOME THE GENETIC MANIPULATOR KNOWN AS MR. SINISTER!



SO EVEN THOUGH THE GUILD GOT A TWO-DAY HEAD START, REMY HAD AN ACE UP HIS SLEEVE, AS USUAL.

WHAT REMY HADN'T TOLD CANDRA OR THE GUILD WAS THAT ESSEX OPERATED UNDER AN ALIAS.

WHILE NOT EVEN MENTIONING THE FACT THAT I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DRAGGED ME ALONG...

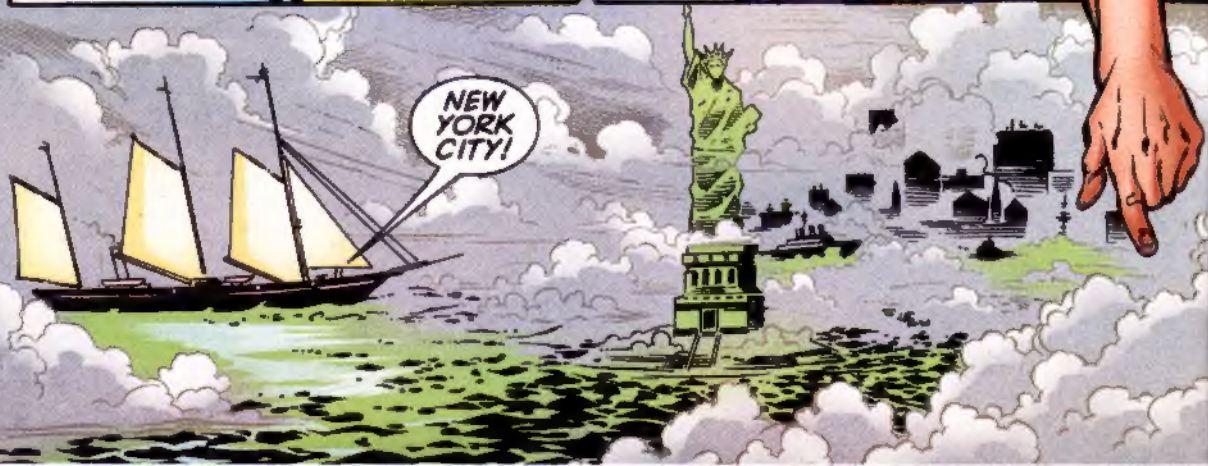
...I DO SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR WHOLE "DAMNED IF YOU DO, DAMNED IF YOU DON'T" SITUATION.

FINE LINE, HELPIN' T' SAVE MY FAMILY AT TH' EXPENSE OF GVIN' A POWERMONGER LIKE CANDRA -- OR SINISTER -- INFO THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE.

BETWEEN THAT AN' THE FOOD HERE, I'M GETTIN' AN ULCER.



WAKE UP, YOU SWABS, AN' LOOK OFF DE PORT BOW!



NEW YORK CITY!

BELIZE MARCEAUX, AGE FOURTEEN, A MEMBER OF THE NEW ORLEANS THIEVES' GUILD, THOUGHT HE HAD SEEN IT ALL.

BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE HAS BEEN IN MANHATTAN. THE FIRST TIME HE HAS SEEN THE FUTURE.

FROM THE IMMIGRATION PROCESSING CENTER AT CASTLE GARDEN --

-- TO JEWISH DAY-LABORERS GATHERED AT THE PIG-MARKET ON HESTER AND LUDLOW --

-- HEARING THE STRIDENT CALLS FOR UNION ESTABLISHMENT BY EMMA GOLDMAN, THE "MAD-WOMAN OF THE KHAZZAR-MARK" --

-- FROM THE TENEMENT CONDITIONS IN THE "BLOODY SIXTH" WARD OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE --

-- TO THE CRAMPED ONE ROOM HOVEL RENTED BY HIS GUILD FAMILY, HE HAS SEEN THE FUTURE --

-- AND IT IS A CROWDED, LOUD, CHAOTIC TANGLE OF GREED, GUILT AND LUST!

IN COMPARISON TO THAT, THE OLD WAYS OF HIS GUILD SEEM... OBSOLETE.

QUIET CANDLELIT PRAYER RITUALS, PAINTED GLYPHS OF A LONG-LOST TONGUE, ALL MORSELS OF YESTERDAY, WHEN TOMORROW AWAITS THE HUNGRY.

BELIZE THINKS: ONE DAY, JEAN LUC LEBEAU WILL BE THE CLAN PATRIARCH AND I'LL CONVINCE HIM TO FORGE A NEW GUILD.

BELIZE DOESN'T KNOW THAT
IN FORTY YEARS, JEAN LUC
WILL BE FORCED TO KILL HIM.

T'INK
PRAYIN'S
GONNA HELP US
FIND DIS MAN
ESSEX?

Y'KNOW,
PEOPLE HERE
DAT KNOW OF
DE GUILD T'INK
WE'RE RELIGIOUS
FANATICS...

FANATICS,
BOY? 'CAUSE
WE FOLLOW A
STRICT SET 'A
RULES DAT WERE
OLD WHEN DE
WORLD WAS
YOUNG?

THE FIRE IN THE EYES
OF JACQUES LOBEAU
BURNS INTO BELIZE.
HE BITES HIS LIP.

IF YOU
WAN' ONE
DAY --

-- T' BE AS
GOOD A HARVEST
MASTER FOR MY
SON --

-- AS YO'
DADDY HAS
BEEN FOR
ME --

-- YOU'D
BEST LEARN
T' RESPECT
DE RITUALS.

DO NOT SHAME
ME, SON. DO
NOT SHAME
YOURSELF.

SMACK

THE SLAP FROM ROULER
MARCEAUX, HIS FATHER,
HURTS MORE INSIDE THAN
OUT.

BELIZE WANTS TO
CRY, BUT INSTEAD,
HE SMILES.

NO SHAME
IN WORKIN' WHILE
Y'ALL IN HERE
PRAYIN', IS DERE,
POPPA?

'SPECIALLY
WHEN I KNOW
WHY WE HAVEN'
FOUND DOCTOR
NATHAN ESSEX
OF ENGLAND'S
MILBURY HOUSE --

-- LOOK AT
DIS NEWSPAPER
ARTICLE -- INFORMATION
IS DE "BIBLE" OF
TOMORROW --

-- "DR. NATHAN
MILBURY TESTIFIED AT
DE TRIAL OF ACCUSED
CHILD-KILLER AMANDA
MUELLER..." --

-- ESSEX
CHANGED HIS NAME!





EVENING OUTSIDE OF DELMONICO'S STEAKHOUSE ON MADISON PARK...

BETTER THAN BRITISH GRUEL, huh? COMFORTING TO KNOW SOME THINGS *NEVER* CHANGE.

CAN'T GET A TWELVE COURSE MEAL AT MCDONALDS.

IS THAT A SCOTS RESTAURANT?

NEVER MIND!

MAN, THIS CITY IS A MESS! CONSTRUCTION EVERYWHERE.

THEY BEEN CLEARIN' SPACE FOR UNDERGROUND PHONE LINES, JAKE -- ELECTRICAL LINES, WATER MAINS, GAS MAINS, SEWER LINES --

-- THEY'RE EVEN STARTIN' THE SUBWAY TUNNELS IN SOME PARTS.

SUBWAY?

NEVER MIND!



OKAY, WE GATHERED PLENTY OF INFORMATION ON MILBURY, BEING AS HOW HE'S ALL THE GOSSIP WITH THE "BLACK WOMB TRIAL."



ANY IDEA HOW WE'RE GOING TO APPROACH A DOCTOR WHO'S SET HIMSELF UP AS THE CITY'S LEADING OBSTETRICIAN?

REMY... WHY'RE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?




NO.

YAH.

NO!

OH... YAH...

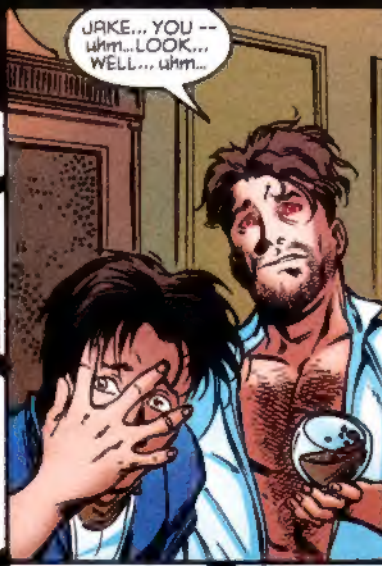


REMY,
HAVE I TOLD
YOU HOW MUCH
I HATE YOU
TODAY?

JACOB GAVIN JR. HAS
COMPLETE CONTROL
OVER THE TOTALITY OF
HIS CELLULAR STRUCTURE.

THE PROCESS
TO CHANGE HIS
APPEARANCE TAKES
HOURS, BUT THE
RESULTS ARE
OBVIOUSLY...

... ALL-ENCOMPASSING!



JAKE... YOU --
WHM... LOOK...
WELL... WHM...



WILL
YOU MARRY
ME?



HATE.
YOU.

OKAY,
OKAY -- HOW
'BOUT JUS'
SOME HOT
LOVIN'?

THEY TOLD JEAN LUC THAT COURIER WAS A "GIFTED ACTOR."

BUT JEAN LUC COULD SEE THROUGH THE BEDSHEET AND IT WAS ONE HECK OF AN ACTING JOB! HE KEPT HIS MOUTH SHUT.



"JACQUELINE" GAVIN MADE AN APPOINTMENT WITH DR. MILBURY.

SHE HAD HARBORED AND TAUGHT YOUNG ADAM WORTH AFTER THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.

MARM FLED THE U.S. IN 1884, BUT HER "SALON" STAYED IN BUSINESS...



... TO CATCH THIEVES AND USE THIEVES.

THE GUILD HAD BEEN AROUND RECENTLY, ASKING QUESTIONS... BUT RECEIVING ONLY ONE ANSWER.

WE GOT OUR OWN JOB T' DO, KIDDO -- FIND YOUR FAMILY.

DON' KNOW IF I WANT T' FIND 'EM, REMY.



"YOU WANT INFORMATION ON DR. MILBURY... GO ASK AMANDA MÜELLER."

THEY SAID IT'S GON' TAKE MORE MONEY'N WE GOT T' BRIBE THIS WOMAN.

WELL, WHILE YOU WERE BUSY... SO WAS I.



THEY WALK SEVERAL BLOCKS TO CLINTON STREET, TALKING ALL THE WAY.

JEAN LUC TELLS OF HIS UNCERTAINTY WITH THE GUILD AND THE VERY NATURE OF THEIR CALLING --

-- THE ETERNAL STRUGGLE TO STEAL IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH ABOUT THE OLD KINGDOM --



-- TO REFUSE COMFORT FROM THE BOUNTY STOLEN, TO LIVE IN POVERTY... THERE HAD TO BE A BETTER WAY...

... SAME WORDS REMY HAS HEARD TIME AND AGAIN -- COMING FROM HIS OWN MOUTH, SHIFT GEARS: WORK AT HAND.

79 CLINTON STREET WAS ONCE THE HOME OF MARM MANDELBAUM, A NOTORIOUS RINGLEADER OF THIEVES.



YA KNOW... I'M SURE THERE'S A FEW THINGS YOU COULD TEACH ME...

... SOMEDAY...

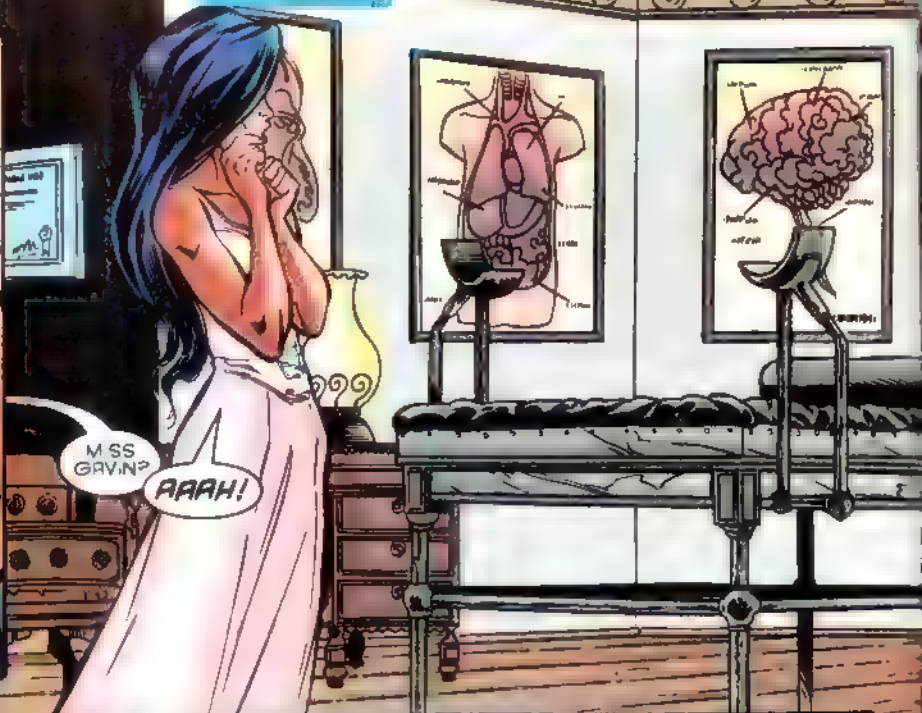


EASIEST PEOPLE T' PINCH ARE COCKY CROOKS.



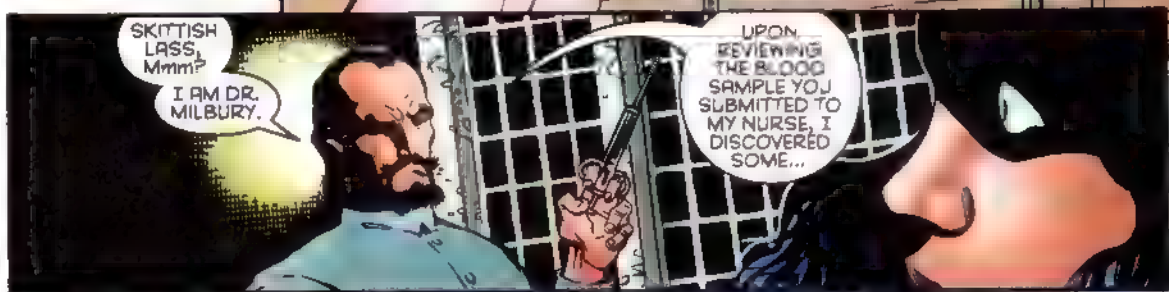
... COURIER STARES AT THE MOST HORRIFYING SIGHT OF HIS LIFE.

NATHAN MILBURY'S EXAMINING ROOM.



MISS GRAYN?

AAAAH!



SKITTISH LASS, Mmm?

I AM DR. MILBURY.

UPON REVIEWING THE BLOOD SAMPLE YOU SUBMITTED TO MY NURSE, I DISCOVERED SOME...

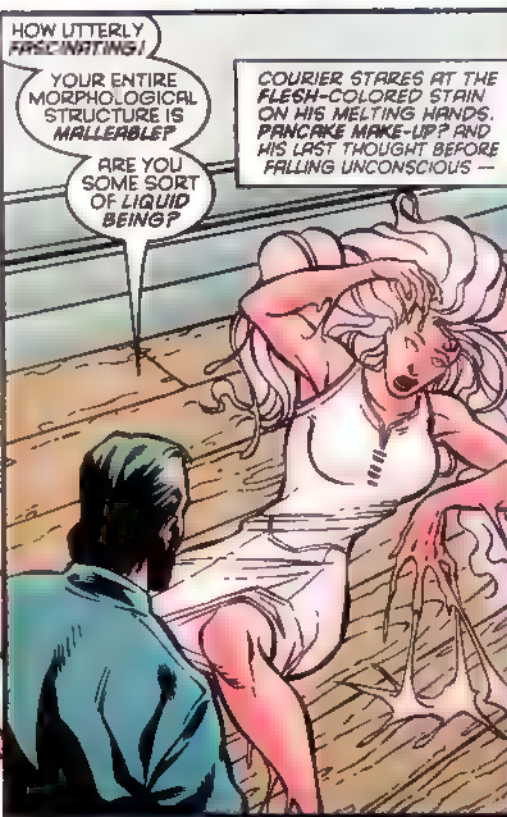


... UNIQUE... ASPECTS TO YOUR MAKE-UP.

EXCUSE ME WHILE I INVESTIGATE FURTHER...

NO! AAGH!

MY FACE!

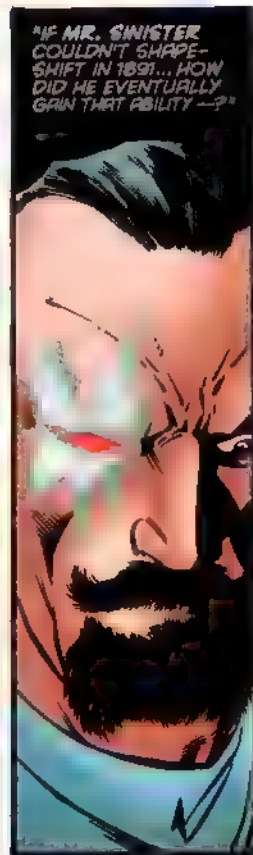


HOW UTTERLY FASCINATING!

YOUR ENTIRE MORPHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE IS MALLEABLE!

ARE YOU SOME SORT OF LIQUID BEING?

COURIER STARES AT THE FLESH-COLORED STAIN ON HIS MELTING HANDS. PANCAKE MAKE-UP? AND HIS LAST THOUGHT BEFORE FALLING UNCONSCIOUS —



"IF MR. SWISTER COULDN'T SHAPE-SHIFT IN 1891... HOW DID HE EVENTUALLY GAIN THAT ABILITY --?"

INTERLUDE

NIGHTTIME OVER THE BOUDREAUX MANSION SITTING ON THE LOUISIANA BANKS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

A HOUSE BUILT NOT ON SWEAT, BUT ON BLOOD. A HOUSE OF ASSASSINS.

BELLA DENNA --
I FORBID YOU FROM SEEIN' DAT BOY AGAIN!

BUT POPPA --
I LOVE HIM!

YOU ARE THIRTEEN, CHILD,
WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF LOVE?

THE GIRL RUNS, ANGRY, HURT.

WHAT DOES HER FATHER KNOW? ANY OF THEM? THEY REFUSE LOVE IN THEIR LIVES --

-- EMBRACING ONLY THE COLD WARMTH OF DEATH.

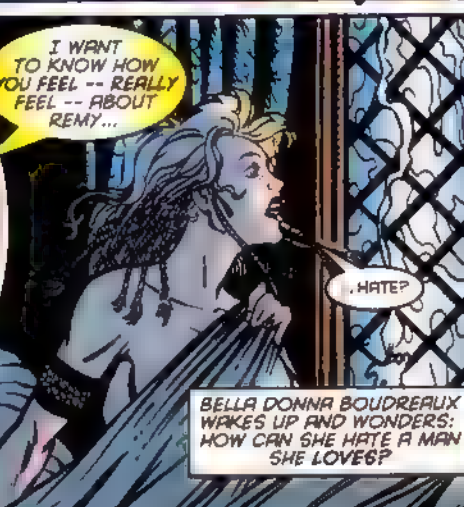
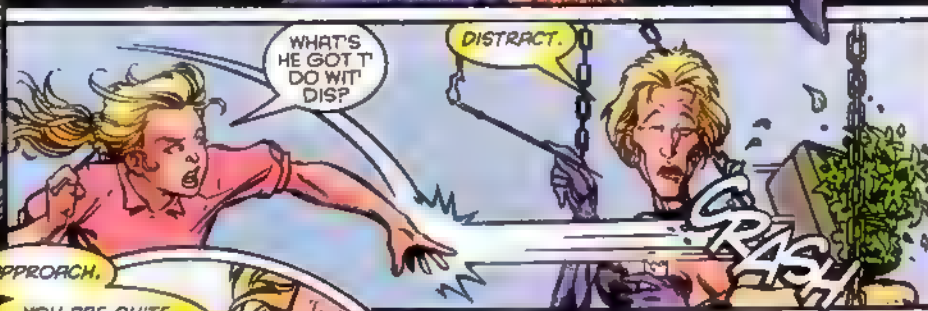
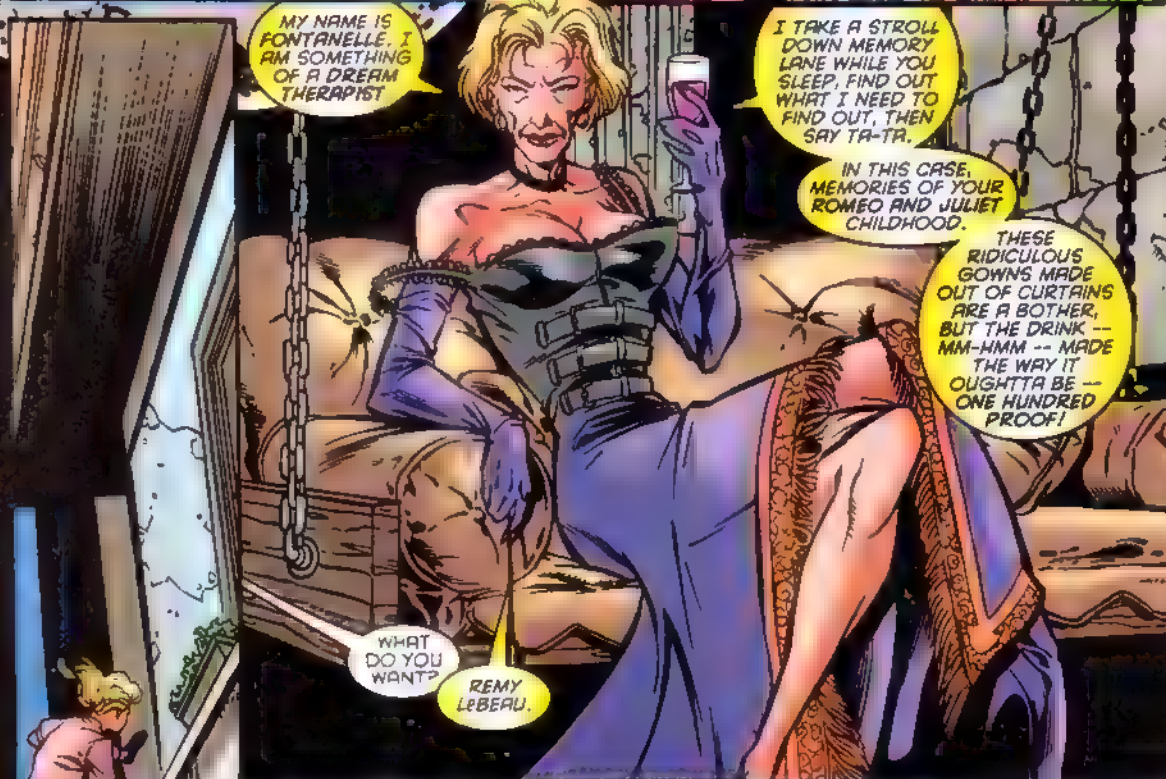
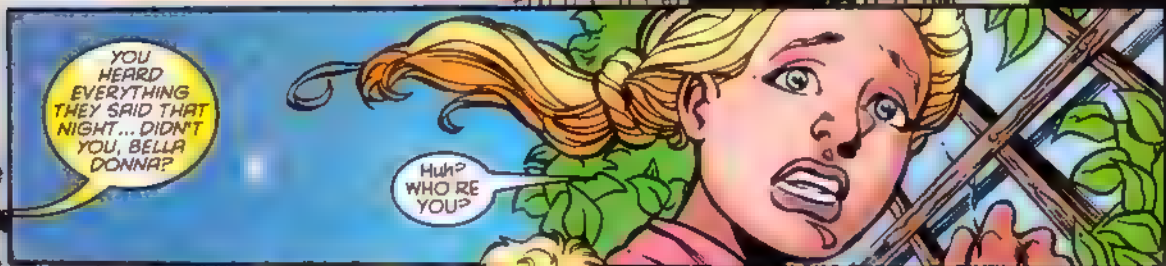
GIRL BE HEADSTRONG, MARIUS... FEISTY.

ONE DAY, DAT MAKE HER A GOOD LEADER FOR THE ASSASSINS' GUILD.

PERHAPS, GRIS GRIS, RIGHT NOW, THOUGH... IT ONLY MAKES FOR A FATHER'S HEARTACHE.

IS IT REALLY 'BOUT DE FACT SHE LOVE A BOY THIEF --

-- OR DE SECRETS YOU REALLY KNOW... ABOUT WHAT REMY LeBEAU IS GON' MEAN ONE DAY FOR TH GUILDS OF NEW ORLEANS?



MEANWHILE, BACK
IN 1891...

... THE FIRST MANSION
ON FIFTH AVENUE WAS
BUILT IN 1834, ON 9TH
STREET, BY THE SOCIALLY
PROMINENT BREVOORT
FAMILY.

OVER THE NEXT
HALF-CENTURY,
BIGGER, BOLDER,
AND MORE LAVISH
HOUSES CREEPT UP
THE AVENUE TO THE
60'S.

AMANDA MÜLLER
HAS LIVED ON 65TH
STREET SINCE AN
UNPLEASANT DIVORCE
FROM A COMMONER
HUSBAND.

SHE RETURNED TO HER
ROOTS -- GREEDY AND
ENCROACHING INTO SOIL
MADE OF OLD MONEY

JUST THE KIND OF LADY
REMY LEBEAU WAS BORN
TO SWINDLE!

I FEEL
STUPID.

YOU LOOK
SICK. VERY
ALFALFA.

Huh?

I KNOW...
NEVER
MIND

MISS MÜLLER
WILL SEE YOU
SHORTLY.

THANK
YOU.

WEDDING DAY
PICTURE?

POOR
BLOKE DIDN'
KNOW WHAT HE
WAS GETTIN'
INTO.

PICTURE
SAYS HIS
NAME IS DANIEL.

Mmm.

Ah-ah...

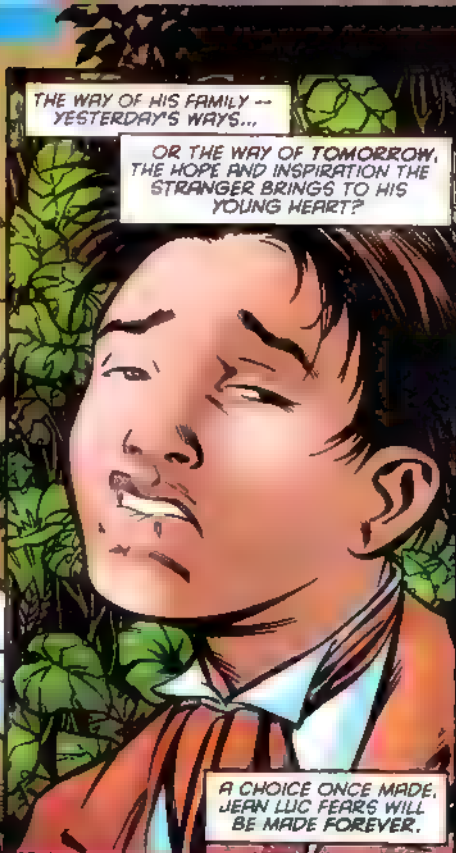


HE IS, AN' ALWAYS HAS BEEN, FREE T' GO BACK T' HIS FAMILY...

... WE JUUS' HADDA FIND YOU FIRST!

BEFORE YOU MADE A WORSE MESS OF YOUR SITUATION BY FINDIN' ESSEX!

JEAN LUC -- SON -- YOU MUST DECIDE NOW -- YOUR FAMILY OR DIS WHITE DEVIL TEL'IN' GLIB LIES!



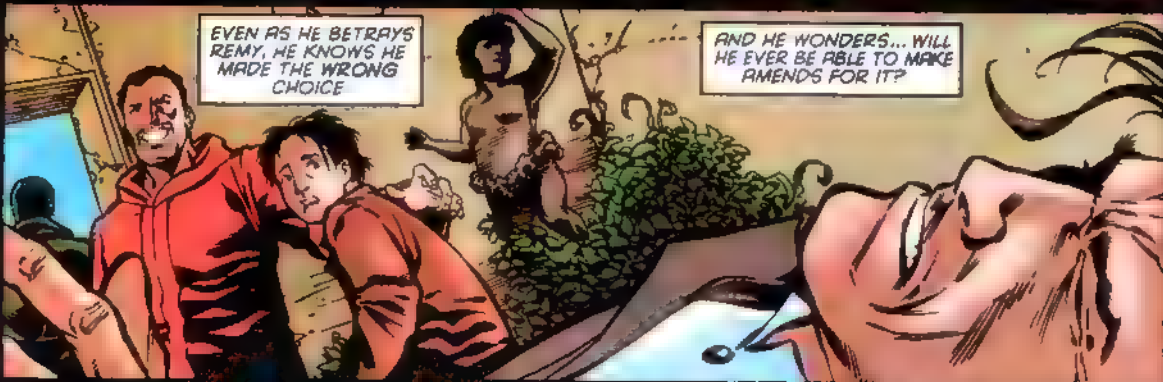
THE WAY OF HIS FAMILY -- YESTERDAY'S WAYS...

OR THE WAY OF TOMORROW, THE HOPE AND INSPIRATION THE STRANGER BRINGS TO HIS YOUNG HEART?

A CHOICE ONCE MADE, JEAN LUC FEARS WILL BE MADE FOREVER.



SMASH



EVEN AS HE BETRAYS REMY, HE KNOWS HE MADE THE WRONG CHOICE

AND HE WONDERS... WILL HE EVER BE ABLE TO MAKE AMENDS FOR IT?



FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER.

OUCH

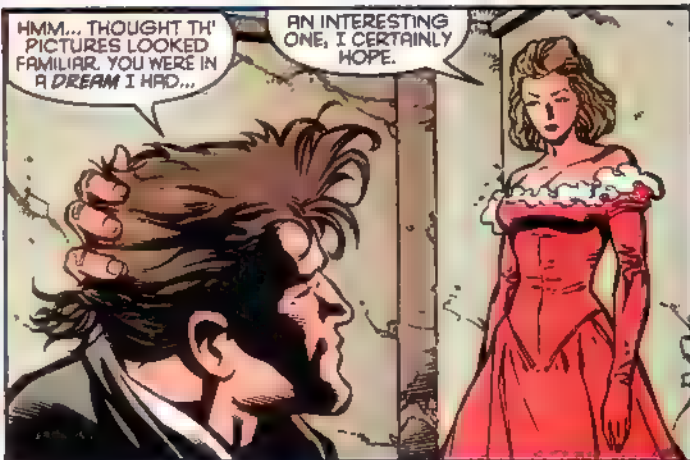


DEFINITELY NOT AN ANGEL... I PRESUME... ?

ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPERS, MOST WOULD SAY JUST THE OPPOSITE.

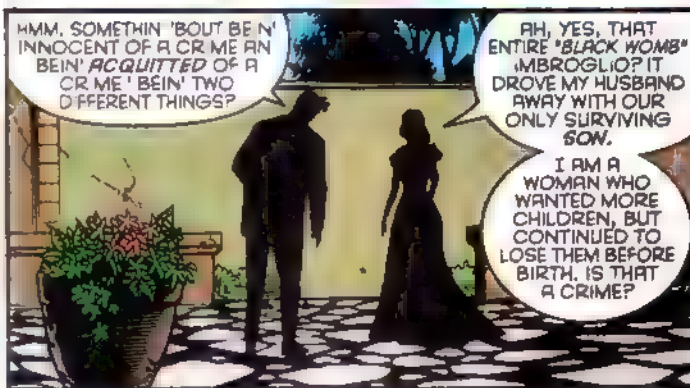
AMANDA MUELLER?

IN ALL HER NOTORIOUS FLESH, M'SIEU LeBEAU



HMM... THOUGHT TH' PICTURES LOOKED FAMILIAR. YOU WERE IN A DREAM I HAD...

AN INTERESTING ONE, I CERTAINLY HOPE.



HMM. SOMETHIN 'BOUT BEIN' INNOCENT OF A CRIME AN BEIN' ACQUITTED OF A CRIME 'BEIN' TWO DIFFERENT THINGS?

AH, YES, THAT ENTIRE "BLACK WOMB" MBROGLIO? IT DROVE MY HUSBAND AWAY WITH OUR ONLY SURVIVING SON.

I AM A WOMAN WHO WANTED MORE CHILDREN, BUT CONTINUED TO LOSE THEM BEFORE BIRTH. IS THAT A CRIME?



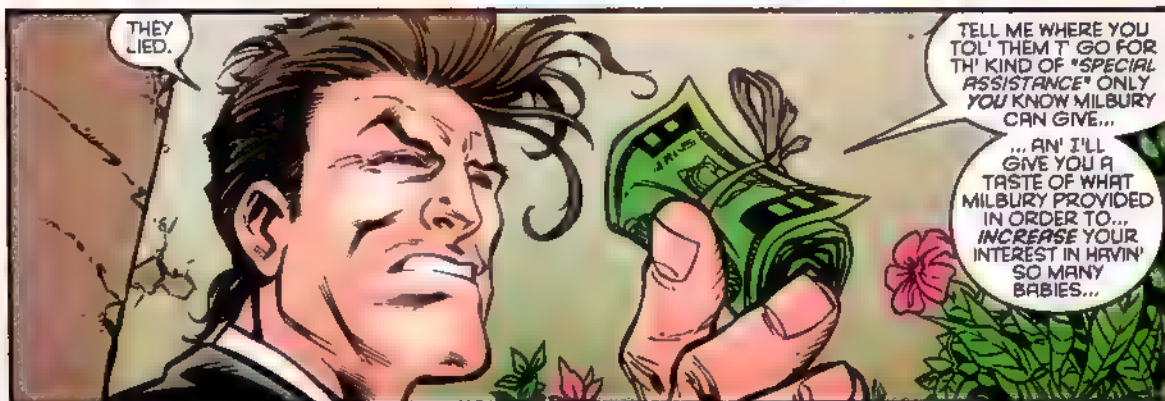
LEGALLY OR MORALLY? DEPENDS ON WHY YOU LOST 'EM. BUT NONE OF THAT IS MY BUSINESS, OR WHY I'M HERE.

YOUR DOCTOR MILBURY, WHO TESTIFIED ON YOUR BEHALF, IS.

AN I'M SURE HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT WHY YOU LOST SO MANY BABIES THAN HE'S TELLIN'...



THOSE RUFFIANS WHO ARRIVED BEFORE YOU WANTED HIM, TOO... THEY NEEDED MILBURY'S VERY SPECIAL ASSISTANCE WITH A SICK BABY.



THEY LIED.

TELL ME WHERE YOU TOL' THEM T' GO FOR TH' KIND OF "SPECIAL ASSISTANCE" ONLY YOU KNOW MILBURY CAN GIVE...

...AN I'LL GIVE YOU A TASTE OF WHAT MILBURY PROVIDED IN ORDER TO... INCREASE YOUR INTEREST IN HAVIN' SO MANY BABIES...

THE STREETS ALONG THE LOWER EAST SIDE OF MANHATTAN ARE GUTTED.

MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION EFFORTS PREPARE THE CITY FOR THE FUTURE

A LOT OF DIGGING INTO THE DIRT OF YESTERDAY; THE BEDROCK OF THE ISLAND

BURROWING SO MANY TUNNELS IN THE DARK A CREW COULD EASILY BE BRIBED TO CREATE

.. A FEW ACCESS TUNNELS ON THE SIDE...

HERE, JACQUES! JUST LIKE THE WOMAN TOLD US!

WATCH WHERE YOL SWING YOUR PHOSPHOR STICK, BEL ZE --

-- WHO KNOWS WHAT DEVILS JE IN WAIT DOWN HERE!

AAGH!

SKELETONS, DOZENS OF THEM, CLEANED DRY.

ARRANGED ALONG THE TUNNEL WALLS LIKE A STRING OF ORNAMENTAL DRIED FLOWERS.

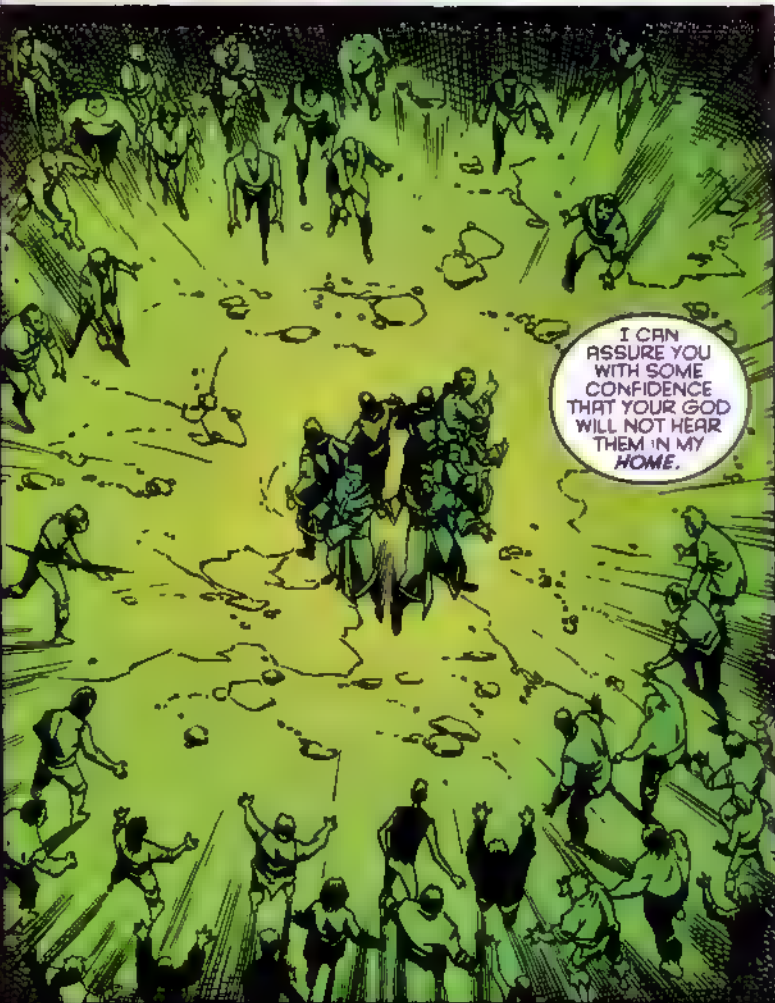
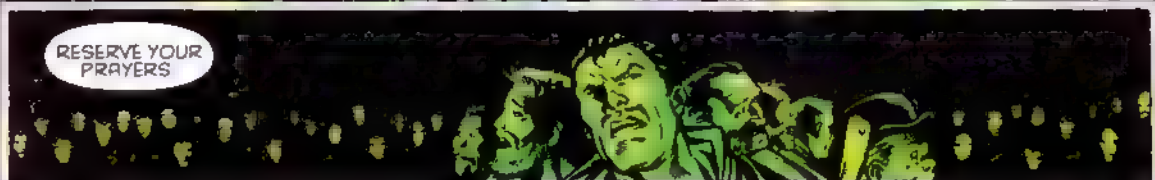
ALL OF THEM MALFORMED, MISSHAPEN, SOCIETY'S MISFITS, PROBED AND PRODDED, DISSECTED AND REVERED BY A MAD DOCTOR.

SILENTLY, THE GUILDSMEN SUCK IN THE COLD, DAMP AIR --

-- SURPRISED THAT HELL COULD HAVE SUCH A CHILL TO IT..



RESERVE YOUR PRAYERS



I CAN ASSURE YOU WITH SOME CONFIDENCE THAT YOUR GOD WILL NOT HEAR THEM IN MY HOME.

FOR THIS IS A PLACE EVEN HE FEARS TO TREAD!





PHOSPHOR
STICK?

IT'S GLOW
HAS BARELY
FADED.

IT WAS DROPPED
MINUTES AGO.

THEY WERE HERE
BEFORE HIM.

MUDDLED FOOTPRINTS
IN THE DIRT. DOZENS
OF FEET.

A SCUFFLE

SOME DRAG LINES.
THEY WERE TAKEN
AWAY!

IGNORE THE
SKELETONS. HE'S
SEEN FAR WORSE
FROM HIM.



THIS IS CRUDE BY THE STANDARDS
THE MADMAN WILL EMPLOY A
HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW.

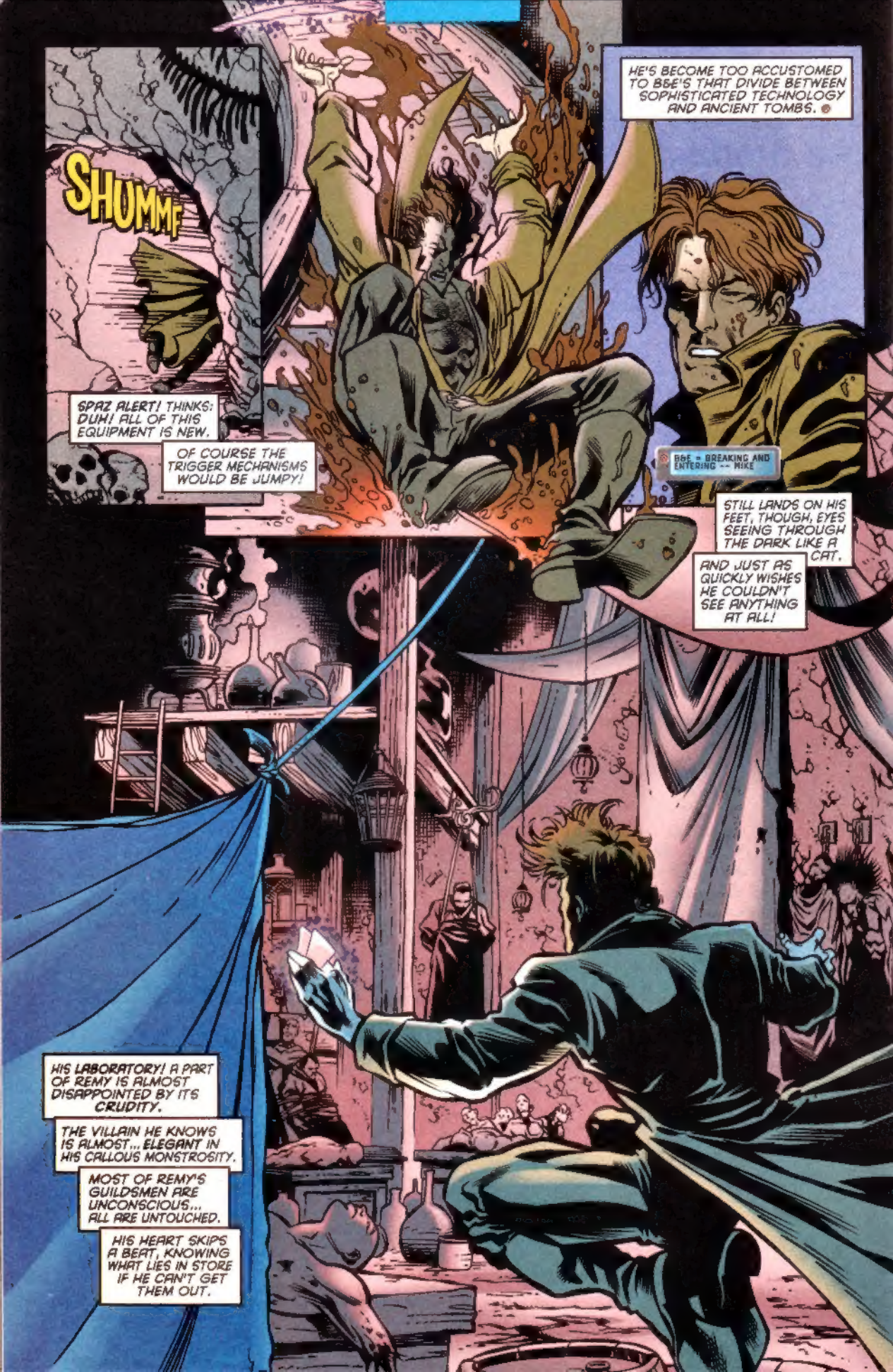


LIKE A LITTLE BOY
PLAYING WITH A DEAD
ANIMAL... COMPARED TO
THE WORK OF A SKILLED
SURGEON.

TRACKS STOP
AT THE WALL.



A SCORING TOOL
TO FIND A SEAM...



HE'S BECOME TOO ACCUSTOMED TO B&E'S THAT DIVIDE BETWEEN SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY AND ANCIENT TOMBS. ●

SHUMME

SPAZ ALERT! THINKS: DUH! ALL OF THIS EQUIPMENT IS NEW.

OF COURSE THE TRIGGER MECHANISMS WOULD BE JUMPY!

B&E - BREAKING AND ENTERING -- MIKE

STILL LANDS ON HIS FEET, THOUGH, EYES SEEING THROUGH THE DARK LIKE A CAT.

AND JUST AS QUICKLY WISHES HE COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING AT ALL!

HIS LABORATORY! A PART OF REMY IS ALMOST DISAPPOINTED BY ITS CRUDITY.

THE VILLAIN HE KNOWS IS ALMOST... ELEGANT IN HIS CALLOUS MONSTROSITY.

MOST OF REMY'S GUILDSMEN ARE UNCONSCIOUS... ALL ARE UNTOUCHED.

HIS HEART SKIPS A BEAT, KNOWING WHAT LIES IN STORE IF HE CAN'T GET THEM OUT.

AND REMY KNOWS
HE CAN'T GET
THEM OUT...

... WITHOUT PLAYING A
HAND HE WOULD -- LITERALLY
AND FIGURATIVELY -- RATHER
KEEP UP HIS SLEEVE!

HIS MUTANT
POWERS.

SLSS

PUH-
PUHLEAZE --
HUH-HELP
ME --

HE COULD DESTROY
THE ENTIRE LAB,
CRIPPLE HIS WORK
FOREVER --

-- MUCKING
WITH TIMELINES
BE DAMNED --

-- THERE ARE PEOPLE
HERE AND NOW WHO
NEED HIS HELP!

BUT, UNFORTUNATELY,
PEOPLE WHO ARE ALSO
LONG DEAD AND GONE.
AND REMY KNOWS IT...

I
WOULD NOT
CONTEMPLATE
ANY RASH
ACTIONS.

DR.
ESSEX, I
PRESUME?

OR DO
YOU PREFER
MILBURY
HERE IN THE
STATES?

ACTUALLY,
HERE IN THE
VERY HEART OF
WHO I AM AND
ALL THAT I
ONE DAY HOPE
TO BE...

... I
PREFER TO BE
CALLED...



... SINISTER!

IF YOU
MAKE A MOVE
AGAINST ME,
I WILL ORDER MY...
ASSOCIATES... TO
ATTACK YOUR
FRIENDS.

OR, IF IT
IS NOT THEY
YOU HAVE
COME TO
RESCUE...

... PERHAPS THE
FASCINATING TRACE
OF -- BIOLOGICALLY
DERIVED ENERGY,
IS IT --?



-- LINKS YOU
MORE CLOSELY
TO ANOTHER WHO
TRIED TO MAKE MY
ACQUAINTANCE
TODAY...

... THOUGH I
DOUBT YOU WOULD
RECOGNIZE HER
TRUE FORM!



COURIER?

FLASH
THOUGHT:
JAKE IS A
MILKSHAKE.

PERHAPS
NOW WOULD
BE A TIME FOR
CONCILIATION?

ASK
YOURSELF...
"TO SAVE MY LIFE
AND THOSE OF THE
OTHERS HERE, WHAT
CAN I DO FOR
SINISTER?"



NEXT:

DANGEROUS ALLIES!
DEADLY Foes!
A TRIP TO ETERNITY!
A PACT WITH
THE DEVIL!
(AND SHOULD COURIER
START SHOPPING
FOR MORE WOMEN'S
CLOTHING?)

DEALER'S CHOICE

Howdy, folks. We're in a bit of a scramble here, because it seems as if some rogue member of the Thieves Guild has made off with all of our mail. So, all you frustrated letter hawks out there, now's your chance! Just make your missives neat (preferably typed) and clean (no cussin') and we'll be happy to run 'em here. And don't forget—if you're e-mailing, label your note "OK to Print." If you don't, we won't!

Dear Dealer's Choice,

Now, I usually heap a lot of praise on Marvel Comics because you make the best comics in the world, but today I want to throw a different kind of compliment your way.

GAMBIT is not the kind of book I would normally read. But I gave it a chance and I have to say, pound for pound, GAMBIT has to be one of the most entertaining books being produced by Marvel today. But that doesn't mean much, because I think you produce a lot of great entertaining stuff.

So let me try again. The art is excellent and the stories are superb. I can't wait for Fabian Nicieza to take over the writing of THUNDERBOLTS. If his THUNDERBOLTS work is the equal of his GAMBIT material, I might need an oxygen mask! I usually don't gush, but GAMBIT reminds me why I spend my entertainment dollars on comics. Did you see the page in GAMBIT #11 where Gambit and Daredevil are thrown out of the window by the Constrictor? Is that great art and action or what?

GAMBIT stands alone. This isn't overly mutant-centric or overly anything for that matter. It's just a great action book based on an interesting character and I hope it stays that way. My head keeps telling me that GAMBIT is excellent while my heart leaps, protesting that it can't be considered on the same level as classic, time-testing solo heroes like Spider-Man and Thor. But as of GAMBIT #11, I have finally accepted the Ragin' Cajun as a major player in the Marvel Universe with all the other classics. (I'm sorry if I gushed a bit, but I firmly believe in giving credit to people who do a good job—in life or in comics.)

Anyway, on to why I liked the issue so much. Constrictor, Daredevil and Gambit. Now that's a mixed-

up bunch, but a teaming that really paid off. How many things were broken in the course of this issue? I think it's time to call in Damage Control! Another mysterious interlude, I see. I don't have a clue what these are about, but I love them. And yeah, Constrictor stole the show at the end, but hey, he's a cool character, so he gets a pass this time. Will he get replacement Adamantium coils?

I would like to see a scene in which Gambit goes to a drugstore to buy some playing cards. He does do that, right?

Brendan Walsh
Chicago, IL

Well, we figure he probably buys them wholesale from a distributor. It's a lot cheaper that way.

We're just tickled that you've accepted Gambit into your heart as a top-tier Marvel hero. Many may have doubted Remy's ability to carry his own title (folks like you, Brendan, before your conversion), but then again, people once said the same thing about a certain veritically challenged Canadian hero who shall remain nameless. Face it, true believers, GAMBIT is here to stay!

Greetings,

Re: GAMBIT #11

Fun. This issue was a lot of fun. The ending was somewhat abrupt, and I wonder about the "healing" of Donato's tummy. What about internal bleeding and all that? Wouldn't the charging of the glass actually make bigger holes? This is the only time I know of that Gambit's charges did not cause a bang, but only dissipated the charged object. Hopefully, this is just an open door to an even deeper exploration of the Cajun's powers in the future...right, guys?

Constrictor was a really fun villain for Gambit to take on. Does this mean Constrictor is finished? I mean, you took out his coils! Daredevil was great to see, as well. And yet another "wahoo!" for the appearance by Sinister. He's breathing life back into the Fontanelle subplot!

On a final note, Steve Skroce's art has never looked better. I think Andy Owens' inks suit his pencils more than Rob Hunter's did.

So thanks again for a great issue and keep up the wonderful work!

Ronnie Dingman
Louisville, KY

Will do, citizen! As long as you promise

to keep checking in every month!

Hiya, folks!

Constrictor as the good guy?! You crazies (I mean that in a loving, caring sort of way, of course)! Remy's solution to the problem of how to save all three lives was rather ingenious.

So, it looks like Remy'll be going time-hopping with Mr. Sinister, huh? Color me intrigued! Anything to do with Apocalypse, I wonder? I look forward to finally finding out what Fontanelle has been up to, as well. All this information gathering; what can it be for, do you suppose?

Well, I'm sure all will be revealed soon enough, including the identity of the New Son and the contents of that pesky vial! Take care, & keep 'em comin'!

Paul M. Slattery
pms@ringstead.freemove.co.uk

Well, Paul, wherever Sinister is involved, Apocalypse usually has a way of turning up. Although, after recent events in X-MEN, it may be in different ways than we're used to seeing. And the contents of that vial ... hmmm ... something tells us that vial will come into play quite importantly a few issues from now.

Dear Dealer's Choice,

I just had a flash: Sinister is Gambit's father. The eyes have it. I knew Remy wasn't the third Summers brother; that's Adam X. By the way, love the book. How about a guest shot by Nomad? I'm sure Fabian would love to do it.

'Nuff said.

Calvin Teague
Ft. Smith, AK

Yes, he probably would love to do it, Calvin, that's why we're going to have to ask you to lower your voice so he doesn't hear you.

NEXT ISSUE:

JOIN US IN 30 DAYS
FOR THE
CONCLUSION OF THE
"SUNSET DAWN"
STORYLINE!
SINISTER!
APOCALYPSE!
OZYMANDIAS!
CANDRA! 'NUFF SAID!

MIKE
MARTS
EDITOR

BOB
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DEALER'S CHOICE

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